

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action mailed March 22, 2006.

Formal Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering the subject application. The Examiner has objected to claim 21 and Applicants have completed the sentence as requested.

While Applicants traverse the rejections set forth, Applicants have nevertheless amended various claims to include allowable subject matter or be cancelled. For example claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 7. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that various issues raised in the Office action are now moot. Those issues still pending are discussed below.

Claims 5 and 27

The Office action asserts Hoshi et al. (US Patent 6,151,890) in view of Surnilla (US Patent 6,543,219) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with regard to claims 5 and 27. However, the Surnilla reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Surnilla is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the applied reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. As such, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 5 and 27 be withdrawn.

Claims 8

The Office action asserts Hoshi et al. (US Patent 6,151,890), however fails to provide any reference as to where Hoshi et al. show the specific acts of claim 8 taken "after synchronous injection begins." Applicants have reviewed Hoshi et al. and find no description of how ignition timing is adjusted relative to the beginning of synchronous injection. In fact, Applicants can find no mention of synchronous injection. As such, the rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No.06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505.

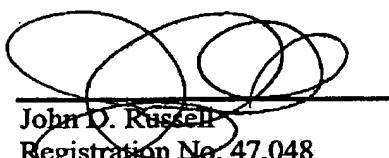
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300 on June 19, 2006.



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Respectfully submitted,
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